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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1910.

## Opening the Museum on Sundays.

The announcement that upon the com-  
pletion of the new building, the collections  
of the Smithsonian Institution and Na-  
tional Museum will be on view in the  
evenings and on Sundays is most gratify-  
ing, indeed.

It marks another progressive step at  
the Capital, and is hailed with general  
approval, naturally.

Washington is not only the most beau-  
tiful, but is the most interesting of all  
American cities; yet its own people are to-  
day denied much of the pleasure and profit  
that residence here should give them by  
rules governing admittance to public  
buildings. Visiting sightseers derive  
pleasure and profit in abundance from  
seeing what there is to be seen and  
learning what may be learned; they find  
Washington, with its varied attractions,  
worth journeying many miles to see. But  
there are many thousands of Washington-  
ians, who comprise the workaday local  
world, who are shut off from these things  
and the educational advantages in them  
because their only leisure comes in the  
evenings and on Sundays. Thus it comes  
about that many Washington people  
really do not know their Washington.

We are pleased that this condition is  
to be remedied as it applies to the Smith-  
sonian and Museum, just as we were  
pleased when the Library of Congress  
similarly extended its rules, and as we  
should likewise hail the opening of all  
great buildings and places of interest. It  
is in the true American spirit and betrays  
the American Capital.

We congratulate the authorities of the  
two institutions upon the long-delayed but  
timely and commendable step they have  
decided upon.

## Cause and Effect.

Some one of our numerous artists who  
fashion the fearful and wonderful things  
for the alleged "comic" colored supple-  
ments seek to it that a certain  
event of recent date in Pennsylvania is  
properly set forth for the amusement  
and instruction of an anxious world.

The excruciating details of this mirth-  
provoking incident runs somewhat as  
hereinafter set forth. A constable of the  
village persuasion met a large and portly  
woman whose "name was Maud." The  
famous constable approached her in  
great glee, therefore, and in her unwill-  
ing ears bawled "Hee haw!" At this  
point the righteously outraged "Maud"  
reached behind and secured from some-  
where—this is a little indefinite, but that  
does not matter—a big ball of scalding  
water, which she poured down the  
constable's back, much to his vociferously  
expressed distress and chagrin, but to  
the unalloyed delight of the multitude  
that had by this time gathered around  
and about.

The story is familiar, but it will bear  
repetition in the "comic" supplements.  
It has been pictorially recited, over and  
over again, of course, but an additional  
thrilling upon the public will not matter  
particularly. In fact, this village per-  
formance may be accepted, perhaps, as a  
neat complement to the makers of the  
"comics." Surely in plot and culmina-  
tion, at least, it all fell out as if it  
might have been patterned after the  
average weekly doings of Hans and Fritz  
and Hoolligan and Mrs. Katzenjammer.

And yet there are carping critics who  
aver that the colored supplement is  
nothing more or less than a crude and  
coarse burlesque of daily life; that it  
never has been true to things as they  
are or possibly might be. It remained  
for this little Pennsylvania town to up-  
set the wisecracks, who, in their turn,  
have sought to upset the "comic" sup-  
plements. Here we have a concrete ex-  
ample of real "comic" supplement do-  
ings—right off the bat, so to speak.

The next time you feel an inclination  
to belittle the "funny" end of some of  
our Sunday papers, remember the con-  
stable and the woman whose "name was  
Maud." You may content yourself with  
saying nothing.

## The Wisdom of the Woodpecker.

Let us pause a moment, and as we progress  
with the arguments denigratory of the  
high cost of living, the total depravity of  
trusts, and the all-round cussedness of  
plutocracy in general, the while we con-  
sider the wisdom of the humble wood-  
pecker as he applies it to the isolated  
problem of food.

The woodpecker, for real practical  
working knowledge and foresight, has  
the owl bedecked in a dunce-cap and  
arrayed in motley. This smart little bird  
is able to see far beyond the end of his  
bill. He not only lays aside things for  
a rainy day, but he makes them work  
while they wait. When autumn leaves  
begin to fall and hints of frost are in  
the atmosphere, the woodpecker puts in  
his spare moments hiding fat, juicy acorns in  
nice little cavities pecked out by himself  
in ancient and decaying pine trees. By  
the time winter has wrapped old earth  
in its chill embrace and clothed the

woods in dreariness, the busy little wood-  
pecker has a hundred or more of these  
succulent acorns scattered around, here  
and there, but always where he knows  
they will be safe until he wants them.  
Curiously enough—and thereby hangs  
this tale—the woodpecker is not a vege-  
tarian, however. He prefers fleshy re-  
past. Were he a human being, he would  
not join the beef boycott. He would beat  
it at its own game—wise little wood-  
pecker!

You see, the woodpecker lays aside his  
acorns in such wise and in such places  
that, though they be hidden from outside  
interference, they are not beyond the  
reach of certain living creatures that  
most do congregate inside those same  
ancient and decaying pine trees afore-  
said; so when hard times come and hun-  
ger gnaws at our dimutive hero's vi-  
tals, he flies away to one of his caches—  
stretching the word's meaning a trifle,  
to be sure—and there uncovers that which  
recently was a fat and juicy acorn, but  
now is, in woodpecker philosophy, at  
least, a bundle of extremely appetizing  
and palatable worms.

The moral of this recital is so obvious,  
and the subsequent and merited hun-  
gerless estate of the woodpecker so plainly  
indicated, that we deem it not worth  
while to elaborate the discussion or amplify  
the argument. We merely serve it up as  
an argument, as it were, hoping and believing  
that it carries its own lesson written so  
compellingly and attractively that even  
he who runs may read.

Cute and erudite little woodpecker!  
How many mere men live their three-  
score years and ten without accumu-  
lating a tithe of the smartness you demon-  
strate in the matter of acorns and worms!

## High Prices and the Tariff.

Commenting upon the cost of living,  
the Churchman says:

"To some extent the increase is general  
the world over, and due, indirectly, to the vast  
increase in the production of gold; in part, it is the  
inevitable result of the partial exhaustion of natural  
resources. In part, though in very small part, it is  
the result of increased wages, in part the result  
of higher cost of production. But a very large part,  
a part larger than all the others combined, is due  
to the exactions of trusts, often made possible by  
the tariff, and to speculation that might be sub-  
jected to regulation."

This foremost publication of the Epis-  
copal Church supplements its own view  
of conditions by quoting approvingly an  
editorial from the Wall Street Journal,  
which says that "high prices for com-  
modities are at the root of labor unrest,"  
that they are "grinding the citizen of the  
middle or professional class as he was  
never bruised before," and "a little more  
pressure of the kind and there can be no  
question that the protective duties of this  
country will be cut to the bone, if the  
Congressional election of 1910 can do it."

Aye, there is the rub—"If the Con-  
gressional election can do it." It cannot.  
There may be the biggest sort of an up-  
heaval in November and yet leave the  
present tariff law perfectly safe. No one  
cognizant of the situation at the Capitol  
will be disturbed for a moment by the  
fear of a Republican Senate accepting  
new tariff schedules framed by a Demo-  
cratic or an Insurgent House. An on-  
slaught upon the new law might be at-  
tempted—probably would be—but it would  
inevitably meet successful resistance in  
the Senate, especially since it has become  
a demonstrated fact that articles upon  
which the tariff tax was reduced have  
in many instances advanced correspond-  
ingly in price with articles upon which  
the duty was increased or left unchanged.

That the exactions of trusts are often  
made possible by the tariff, as the  
Churchman avers, is a well-settled convic-  
tion in many minds, that cannot be re-  
moved. But there is, nevertheless, the  
danger of the overthrow of the protective  
tariff system, less public demand for its  
overthrow, than ever before. There has  
ceased to be a free trade South.

As we have said, a political upheaval  
may come in November. Living condi-  
tions, now wholly out of keeping with  
the country's business prosperity, must  
improve, and improve decidedly, or such  
an upheaval will be invited surely.  
Meanwhile, the administration, in ad-  
dressing itself earnestly to a solution of  
the problem of high prices, should have  
the prompt co-operation of Congress, and  
of the good trusts themselves.

If "Uncle Joe" is bowled over this ses-  
sion, will that, too, be charged up to  
Halley's comet?

Col. Roosevelt rides a horse in Africa  
named "Transvaal." That is enough to  
make the horse laugh every time he  
thinks of it.

"A prophecy is heard from Washington  
that, at the present rate of progress,  
the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation will  
last about nineteen years," says the Pitts-  
burg Dispatch. That, however, will beat  
the Brownsville case, which seems likely  
to go on forever.

A famous astronomer says the new  
comet is able to split into fragments at  
any moment. Must be a Democratic sort  
of luminary.

It seems rather curious that nobody  
ever thinks it worth while to write sen-  
sible words for a popular air, or a popular  
air for sensible words.

The president of the National League  
advises "kindness and consideration for  
the umpire." The umpire gets plenty of  
sympathy and good advice during the  
close season for umpires, of course.

The magazine editors appear finally to  
have discovered a rank odor about the  
Post-office Department, notwithstanding  
the fact that it seems to have escaped  
their attention heretofore. The wind has  
changed, we opine.

"Mrs. Christy declares that she will not  
have such an insignificant creature" as  
her husband attached to her," says the  
Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune. And  
Mrs. Christy is said to have been the  
"perfectly lovely" model for the great  
majority of her husband's famous pic-  
tures!

As a theoretical trust buster, Judge  
Kenesaw Mountain Landis is magnifi-  
cent; but the trusts do not seem to pay  
the fines, nevertheless.

"Kissing is overdone," says a Boston  
woman. Kissing is very rare in Boston,  
we thought.

King Edward is said to be a victim of  
overstrung nerves. With both the Lords  
and the Liberals claiming a victory, we

should think his position on the fence  
would tend rather to calmness and peace  
of mind.

One way of fighting the beef trust is by  
putting your surplus money in chicken  
farms. A concerted war along that line  
doubtless would be a short one and  
mercy.

We fear Senator Aldrich is planning  
neither to retire nor to turn the other  
cheek.

"A fish with legs has been discovered  
in Pittsburgh," says the Norfolk Virginian-  
Pilot. Merely the ordinary variety of  
Pittsburgh "sucker," perhaps.

February is now in our midst. Remem-  
ber, Washingtonians, if you are going to  
do any baseball bragging this season, the  
time to get busy is at hand.

"Chicago University professors are try-  
ing to discover the cause of sleep," says  
the Rochester Herald. That, indeed,  
probably is keeping them awake far into  
the night.

Bangs are to be fashionable again, it is  
whispered. Since the "rat" had become  
so general, we have been inclined to re-  
tract all the mean things we have ever  
said about bangs.

"If America had a poet laureate, Riley  
would be the man," says the Indianapolis  
News. We doubt it. The usual methods  
of distributing political favors hardly  
warrant the assumption.

If we do not slaughter the cattle for  
meat, the cattle will eat up all the grass,  
and then the price of breakfast foods  
will advance again. Say, how are we  
to beat this game, anyway?

If Mr. Roosevelt ever is elected Speaker,  
we predict that what he says will go,  
all right.

A large number of people fear the meat  
boycott will never grow to man's estate.

The comely comet has two tails,  
visible alike in prohibition and anti-pro-  
hibition territory.

Well, well! It is pleasant to see Paris  
getting in out of the wet, is it not?

"Senator Jeff" Davis, of Arkansas,  
does not see why that fellow Vanderman  
wants to come around butting in," says  
the Baltimore Sun. Senator "Jeff" may  
safely bid his rampant anxiety a long  
farewell with respect to that, it seems.

The Senate has ruled that Webster's  
Dictionary is out of date," notes the  
Brooklyn Eagle. Still, the present Sen-  
ate probably would rule old Daniel Web-  
ster out of date, if he should come to  
life and seek to tell it a thing or two.

Mary had a little lamb, a little mint  
sauce, too. She had it in a restaurant,  
and the check made Mary blue!

## CHAT OF THE FORUM.

**Congressional Inaction.**  
From the Charleston News and Courier.  
There is so much for Congress to do, and Con-  
gress is doing so little!

**The Constitution Comes First.**  
From the Deseret News.  
Conservation is good, but really it should not  
be placed above the Constitution.

**Is Alaska Unappreciated?**  
From the Kansas City Star.  
Alaska, also, is asking for home rule. Can it  
be that Alaska is lacking in appreciation of its  
beneficent Guggenheim rule?

**Senator Depew's Joking Ways.**  
From the Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.  
Senator Depew is carrying his marks for joking  
to the straining point, when he inspires the report  
that he will again be a candidate for the Senate.

**Congress Would Be Unnecessary.**  
From the Jackson (Miss.) News.  
With Roosevelt Speaker of the National House  
of Representatives, as has been suggested, the coun-  
try might save some money by abolishing Congress  
entirely.

**No Room for People's Approval.**  
From the Detroit News.  
Covered with Aldrich, Havemeyer, Gary, and Can-  
non "O. K." marks, there is scarcely room on  
Senator Burrows for the stamp of the people's  
approval.

**The Proceedings So Far.**  
From the Louisville Courier-Journal.  
The proceedings at Washington so far have not  
tended to rehabilitate Mr. Ballinger, to endorse  
the Guggenheims to the public, or to increase our  
pride in our national administration.

**Views Are at Variance.**  
From the Indianapolis News.  
There is still some opening for a rapproche-  
ment. Senator Lodge says that prices are lower  
in this country than they are abroad, and Secretary  
Wilson says they are higher. Perhaps it all de-  
pends on what kind of investigation is made.

## No Hard Feeling!

From the Kansas City Journal.  
Clerk: "The hotel is so crowded, sir, that  
the best we can do is to put you in the  
same room with the proprietor."  
Guest: "That will be all right; just put  
my valuables in the safe."

## A Revelation to Us, Also.

From the Topeka Capital.  
Speaking of the nutritive properties of  
foods, it seems from the Ohio State Jour-  
nal that there are 4,530,000 ergs in an  
calory. We had no idea there were so  
many.

## MY UNINVITED GUEST.

One day there entered at my chamber door  
A presence whose light fell on the floor  
No token gave, and ere I could withstand,  
Within her clasp she drew my trembling hand.

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"Intrusive guest," I cried, "my pain I lend  
But to the gracious presence of a friend!  
Why comest thou, unbidden and in gloom,  
Trailing thy cold, gray garments in my room?"

"I know thee, Pain! Thou art the sullen foe  
Of every sweet enjoyment here below;  
Thou art the curfew and the ally of Death,  
And timid mortals shrink from thy cold breath."

"No fragrant balsam grow in thy garden beds,  
Nor simbuline propolis drop thy crimson beads;  
And I will know thee comest to me now  
To bind thy burning claims upon my brow!"

And though my pain I stood straightly up,  
From that day forth I drank her pungent cup,  
And ate her bitter bread—with leaves of rue,  
Which in her sunless garden rankly grew.

And now, no long it is, I scarce can tell  
When Pain within my chamber came to dwell;  
And though she is not fair of mien or face,  
She hath attracted to my humble place.

A company most gracious and refined,  
Whose touches are like balms, whose voices kind;  
Sweet sympathy, with her all-potent rest,  
Courage, who sings while she sits waiting there;

Brave patience, whom my heart esteems much,  
And who hath wondrous vision in her touch;  
Such is the chaste and sweet society  
Which Pain, my faithful foe, hath brought to me.

And now upon my threshold she stands,  
Reaching to me her rosy, yet kindly, hands  
In silent truth. This for a time we part,  
To every door, O Pain, thou hast a key!

For she is so ungentle in her way  
That no host welcomes her or bids her stay;  
Yet, though men bolt and bar their house from thee,  
To every door, O Pain, thou hast a key!

—May Riley Smith.

## A LITTLE NONSENSE.

**ONE OF THE CHORUS.**  
If all the world's a stage,  
As some aver,  
The playbill has me slated as  
A villager.

I get no speaking role,  
Like other chorists,  
No chance for me except to be  
A citizen.

No matter what the scene,  
The only place  
I can call mine is back in line  
As populace.

## He Is Posted.

"The man who really knows how to  
order steers a middle course. He doesn't  
demand a world of ham and eggs."

"I see."

"Nor does he call for a 10-cent portion  
of terrapin."

## The Newest Fad.

"Some of our society women are as-  
sisting the shirt-waist strikers."

"How interesting," murmured Mrs. De  
Style. "You may put me down as a  
patroness whenever they have another  
strike."

## A Good Plan.

We might rove the scars,  
The fractured joints,  
And wage our future wars  
Merely for points.

## Force of Habit.

"I understand that all-star cast was  
rather languid."

"Yes, they played poorly for stars.  
Even the life they put into the mob  
scene was accidental, and came about  
merely through each of them trying to  
grab the center of the stage."

## He Declines.

"Mister," inquired Dusty Rhodes,  
"have you got any old clothes you don't  
want?"

"No, but here is an old automobile  
you may have."

"Thanks, but I have enough trouble  
supplying me own wants without begging  
gasoline from door to door."

## Came in Nicely.

"My husband has always preferred  
brunettes, which was very fortunate for  
me."

## As to how?

"Why, when we were married he had  
enough locks of hair on hand to make  
me an elegant set of puffs."

## Virginia To-day.

John Stewart Bryan, in Collier's.

Better farming is only one phase of Vir-  
ginia's campaign for education. For the  
rest that movement is directed by men  
who with intelligence and vigor are suc-  
cessfully striving to make public-school  
instruction an effective weapon in the  
battle against ignorance and poverty.

How that fight is going may be seen from  
the fact that four years ago Virginia  
ranked thirty-fifth among the States in  
point of education. To-day Virginia ranks  
seventeenth, and her progress upward has  
not halted.

You may judge a civilization by its  
buildings. A century ago Virginia's  
great edifices were the homes of the  
planters, beautiful and stately shrines  
for an individualism that is gone. It is  
the country schoolhouse that dominates  
the landscape in Virginia to-day. That  
change is the most impressive and hope-  
ful fact in Virginia life, for it is a visible  
demonstration of the faith of the people  
that the best education possible is the  
right of the child and the duty of the  
State. No horde of immigrants has come  
to this State. The people of Virginia in  
1910 are still of the same speech and blood  
as the men of 1860 and 1876. Their ideals  
of citizenship have not been obscured  
by the mark of materialism. And be-  
cause the men of the present generation  
under bitter conditions of impoverished  
peace have above the fortitude, the ca-  
pacity, and the self-sacrificing patriot-  
ism of their forebears, the future of Vir-  
ginia is confidently great as her past is  
glorious and secure.

## A Novel Letter Post.

From the New York Sun.

"My brother has adopted a new way to  
post his letters," said an uptown club-  
man. "He called on a certain young  
woman the other evening, and among  
other things they talked of letters writ-  
ten by her. She didn't mind writing let-  
ters, but that she did hate to mail them.  
He declared that it was an awful  
bother, so they decided to devise some  
easier way than carrying them to corner  
boxes."

"Well, what do you think they did?"  
After he left that night she sat down,  
wrote a letter to him, addressed it, sealed  
and stamped it, and then opened the win-  
dow and dropped it on the sidewalk. He  
came home, wrote her a letter, and did  
the same thing with it. I suppose you  
won't believe me, but about two letters  
reached their destinations by the first  
delivery the next morning. Now, what  
do you think of that?"

## Presidential Succession.

From the New York American.

In case of the removal, death, or resig-  
nation or inability of both the President  
and Vice President, then the Secretary  
of State shall act as President until the  
disability of the President or Vice Pres-  
ident is removed or a President is elected.  
The rest of the order of succession is  
Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of  
War, Attorney General, Postmaster Gen-  
eral, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary  
of Agriculture, and Secretary of Com-  
merce and Labor. The acting President,  
in case Congress is not in session, must  
call a special session, giving twenty days'  
notice.

## Goose Thirty-two Years Old.

From the Oshkosh Echo.

John Henry Mattox, whose home is in  
Goosepond district, is possessor of a  
goose thirty-two years old. Its next  
birthday comes in June. The goose stands  
a good chance of living quite a while  
longer. And doubtless Mr. Mattox would  
not part with the fowl that has been a  
member of his barnyard family for so  
long for any consideration.

There is also among his collection of  
fowls a peafowl that if it lives to cele-  
brate its next birthday will be thirty-  
five years old.

## There's a Good Time Coming.

From the Kansas City Times.

"If the people beat the beef trust, it  
may make lumber cheaper, too."

## A Busy Woman.

From the Boston Herald.

"Have you ever wondered about your  
husband's past?"

"Dear me, no. I have all I can do in  
taking care of his present and worrying  
about his future."

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## PEOPLE AND THINGS.

## Paper Money.

Although generally recognized the world  
over as the most satisfactory and con-  
venient form of currency, paper money  
is not a modern idea. Marco Paulo, the  
celebrated traveler, a native of Venice,  
announced to Europe after one of his  
trips into the Orient, that paper money  
had been in use in China under the  
Moguls. Subsequently this popular form  
of currency was introduced by the Mo-  
guls into Persia, where the notes called  
were djau, or djaw, a word apparently  
derived from the Chinese schiao, which  
means "a want of specie." The fact  
that the Moguls used paper money in  
China and Persia brought about the be-  
lief that they were the originators of it.  
But we find in the history of Tschingis,  
Kahn, as well as in that of the Mogul  
dynasty in China, published in 1725, a  
reference to the suppression of the paper  
money which was in use under the  
dynasty of Soung, which antedated the  
Mogul dynasty. The author of this history  
also mentions a new species of  
notes which were substituted for a previ-  
ous issue in the year 1264.

## Sailors Stop Chewing.

According to reports from the Navy  
Department, the tradition man-of-war-  
man, who made it a practice of rolling  
his quid to the other side and spitting  
on his hands preparatory to taking to  
his gun, is a thing of the past. It is  
said that the habit of chewing tobacco  
is no longer an essential characteristic  
of the man behind the gun, as he is rap-  
idly coming to the conclusion that he  
doesn't care for chewing tobacco, any-  
way, simply because it is a rather dis-  
gusting habit, and can be done away  
with while he is about his tasks. The  
Navy Department last year contracted  
for 220,000 pounds of chewing tobacco for  
the use of sailors. This year's con-  
tract will call for only about one-third  
of that amount. The modern sailor is  
saying to be a much daintier sort of  
sailor than the historian and the novel-  
ist has pictured us. Nowadays he  
much prefers a cigarette or a clay pipe  
to a quid of tobacco, but, on the whole,  
he is less inclined to both nicotine and  
grog than he has ever been before.

## Taking the Census.

The total white population of the origi-  
nal area of the United States in 1610 was  
but 210 persons. In 1910 the twelfth cen-  
sus showed a population in our territory  
at that time of over 9,000,000. The taking  
of a census every ten years is some-  
what of a task, as can well be imagined,  
when it is taken into consideration that  
in 1910 it cost Uncle Sam no less than  
\$12,000,000. Since that date it is figured  
that his family has increased by about  
15,000,000 members. The enumeration  
must be finished within two weeks in the  
cities that had 5,000 population or over at  
the last census, and within thirty days  
in all other areas. To perform this task  
promptly the United States will employ  
the services of 75,000 men. The cost of  
the census of 1910 would be \$18,000,000  
or \$19,000,000, judging by the rate of increase  
which has heretofore taken place, but it  
is thought that the economical and im-  
proved methods installed by Director  
Durand will run the total much below